Change to New 1981-2010 Climate Normals on August 1

The new 30 year climate normals will encompass 1981-2010, replacing the 1971-2000 time frame. The following is a quick comparative look at the new monthly normals at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport (KRDU) and the Piedmont Triad nternational Airport (KGSO) against the previous 30 year normals. The new 1981-2010 normals will be released to the public on August 1, 2011.

Overall, the new normals depict a warmer period at both sites. KRDU is slightly wetter, while KGSO is nearly one inch drier than its predecessor. The warmer average temperature was due in part to the fact that the 1970s, a cooler decade, was replaced by the 2000s, a warmer decade. The 1970s also produced much more snowfall across the area than the 2000s. With the 1970s snowfall no longer part of the 30-year climate record, the annual average snowfall has decreased by approximately one inch at both KRDU and KGSO.

Raleigh Durham International Airport (KRDU)

Average Temperature

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
1971-2000	39.7	43	50.7	59.1	67	74.7	78.8	77.2	71.2	60	51	43	59.6
1981-2010	41	44.5	51.6	60.2	68	76.4	80	78.5	71.9	61.2	52.2	43.5	60.8

Average Precipitation

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
1971-2000	4.02	3.47	4.03	2.8	3.79	3.42	4.29	3.78	4.26	3.18	2.97	3.04	43.05
1981-2010	3.5	3.23	4.11	2.92	3.27	3.52	4.73	4.26	4.36	3.25	3.12	3.07	43.34

Average Snowfall

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
1971-2000	2.3	3	1	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.5	7.1
1981-2010	2.9	1.7	0.5	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.6	5.9

Piedmont Triad International Airport (KGSO)

Average Temperature

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
1971-2000	37.7	41.2	49.1	57.6	65.8	73.6	77.9	76.2	69.8	58.5	49.2	41	58.1
1981-2010	38.9	42.4	50	58.8	66.8	75.1	78.5	77.1	70.2	59.5	50.2	41.3	59.1

Average Precipitation

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
1	1971-2000	3.54	3.1	3.85	3.43	3.95	3.53	4.44	3.71	4.3	3.27	2.96	3.06	43.14
1	1981-2010	3.06	2.96	3.73	3.57	3.38	3.73	4.48	3.88	4.19	3.16	3.11	2.98	42.23

Average Snowfall

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
1971-2000	3	3.5	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	0.9	8.9
1981-2010	3.4	2.4	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.1	8.0	7.6